

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-20 are now pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,035,312 to Hashegawa in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,679,166 to Berger et al. Claims 5-6 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hashegawa and Berger et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,978,831 to Ahamed et al.

Claims 3-4 and 9-10 have been objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 and new claim 13 includes the subject matter of allowable claim 4. Claim 7 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 9 and claim 17 has been written to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 10. All the remaining claims depend from these allowable claims.

In view of these amendments, the prior art rejections are rendered moot.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in allowable form.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

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Respectfully submitted,

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